

rule of law, including the independence of courts and the lack of a predictable tax regime.”;

Whereas on March 13, 2008, the European Parliament issued a resolution calling on the Russian President to “review the treatment of imprisoned public figures (among them Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev), whose imprisonment has been assessed by most observers as having been politically motivated”;

Whereas in July 2008, President Dmitry Medvedev said it was essential that Russia “take all necessary means to strengthen the independence of judges” since “it goes without saying that pressure is applied, influence is exerted, and direct bribery is often used”;

Whereas on August 22, 2008, Mikhail Khodorkovsky was denied parole on the grounds that he refused to take part in vocational training in sewing and that he allegedly failed to keep his hands behind his back during a jail walk;

Whereas on October 25, 2008, the State Department issued a statement marking the fifth anniversary of Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s arrest, stating “the conduct of the cases against Khodorkovsky and his associates has eroded Russia’s reputation and public confidence in Russian legal and judicial institutions”;

Whereas on December 22, 2008, the European Court of Human Rights ordered the release of the terminally ill former Yukos oil executive Vasily Aleksanyan, who had been held in detention since April 6, 2006, despite repeated orders by the European Court that Mr. Aleksanyan be treated in a humane fashion for cancer and AIDS;

Whereas in February 2009, Andrei Illarionov, former chief economic advisor to President Vladimir Putin, stated that “[o]ne of the best known political prisoners is Mikhail Khodorkovsky who has been sentenced to 9 years in the Siberian camp Krasnokamensk on the basis of purely fabricated case against him and his oil company Yukos”;

Whereas on February 24, 2009, human rights lawyer Karinna Moskaleiko, said that “[a]ll verdicts are possible in this country. But for people like Khodorkovsky, everything is already planned out and decided as long as the political will does not change”;

Whereas on February 25, 2009, Olga Kudeshkina, former Moscow court judge who was dismissed from her duties in 2004, stated that Moscow City Court “has turned into an institution of settling political, commercial and other scores” and that “nobody can be sure that the case will be resolved in accordance with the law”;

Whereas on April 2, 2009, Senator Ben Cardin, chair of the Helsinki Commission, issued a statement in the Senate in which he noted that “the Council of Europe, Freedom House and Amnesty International, among others, have concluded that Mr. Khodorkovsky was charged and imprisoned in a process that did not follow the rule of law and was politically influenced...” and that “the current charges...amount to legal hooliganism and highlight the petty meanness of the senior government officials behind this travesty of justice...should be dropped and the new trial should be abandoned”;

Whereas on April 10, 2009, the New York Times published an editorial noting that the new charges and trial against Mikhail Khodorkovsky “are for show, intended only to keep [him] and his colleague in prison forever”;

Whereas on April 11, 2009, the Washington Post wrote: “If Mr. Medvedev allows [the Khodorkovsky trial] to go forward to its scripted conclusion—a lengthy extension of Mr. Khodorkovsky’s sentence to a Siberian

prison camp—the point will be proved that Russia still has no rule of law but only a ruler”;

Whereas on April 21, 2009, Freedom House, Amnesty International, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, the International League for Human Rights, the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, and the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights joined in a letter to President Medvedev in which they note “the serious human rights concerns raised by the case so far” and call on the Russian Government to “ensure that international observers are allowed unhindered access to the courtroom” to monitor the trial, to “ensure that the rule of law is upheld” and that it “meets the standards of the Russian Constitution and international law”;

Whereas the selective disregard for the rule of law by Russian officials undermines the standing and status of the Russian Federation among the democratic nations of the world; and

Whereas both Russia and the United States have recently elected new presidents that provide the opportunity to review past policies and pursue a new era of mutual cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev are prisoners who have been denied basic due process rights under international law for political reasons;

(2) in light of the record of selective prosecution, politicization, and abuse of process involved in their cases, and as a demonstration of Russia’s commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, the new criminal charges brought by Russian authorities against Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev should be withdrawn;

(3) the standing of the Russian Federation as a nation supporting democracy, freedom of expression, an independent judiciary, human rights, and the rule of law would move closer to validation by paroling Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev, both of whom have served more than half their sentences; and

(4) the Russian Federation is encouraged to take these actions to support democratic principles and human rights in furtherance of a new and more positive relationship between the United States and Russia and a new era of mutual cooperation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 190—SUPPORTING NATIONAL MEN’S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 190

Whereas, according to the National Cancer Institute—

(1) despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

(2) 9 of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women;

(3) between ages 45 and 54, men are 3 times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

(4) men die of heart disease at 1½ times the rate of women;

(5) men die of cancer at almost 1½ times the rate of women;

(6) testicular cancer is 1 of the most common cancers in men aged 15 to 34, and when detected early, has a 96 percent survival rate;

(7) the number of cases of colon cancer among men will reach almost 75,590 in 2009, and almost ½ of those men will die from the disease;

(8) the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

(9) the number of men developing prostate cancer in 2009 will reach more than 192,280, and an estimated 27,360 of them will die from the disease;

(10) African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence in the world of prostate cancer;

(11) significant numbers of health problems that affect men, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, colon cancer, and infertility, could be detected and treated if men’s awareness of such problems was more pervasive;

(12) more than ½ of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100, women outnumber men 8 to 1;

(13) educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases;

(14) appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen exams, blood pressure screenings, and cholesterol screenings, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many problems in their early stages and increase the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

(15) women are twice as likely as men to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services; and

(16) men are less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors;

Whereas National Men’s Health Week was established by Congress in 1994 and urges men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the governors of more than 45 States issue proclamations annually declaring Men’s Health Week in their States;

Whereas since 1994, National Men’s Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of States, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the Nation that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men’s Health Week Internet website has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features governors’ proclamations and National Men’s Health Week events;

Whereas men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

Whereas men and their families are encouraged to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups; and

Whereas June 15 through June 21, 2009, is National Men’s Health Week, which has the purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the annual National Men’s Health Week in 2009; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 191—RECOGNIZING THAT THE OCCURRENCE OF PROSTATE CANCER IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN HAS REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS AND URGING FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ADDRESS THAT HEALTH CRISIS BY DESIGNATING FUNDS FOR EDUCATION, AWARENESS OUTREACH, AND RESEARCH SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON HOW PROSTATE CANCER AFFECTS AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BURRIS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 191

Whereas the incidence of prostate cancer in African-American men is 60 percent higher than in any other racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas African-American men have the highest mortality rate of any ethnic and racial group in the United States, dying at a rate that is 140 percent higher than other ethnic and racial groups;

Whereas that rate of mortality represents the largest disparity of mortality rates in any of the major cancers;

Whereas prostate cancer can be cured with early detection and the proper treatment, regardless of the ethnic or racial group of the cancer patient;

Whereas African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed at an earlier age and at a later stage of cancer progression than all other ethnic and racial groups, thereby leading to lower cure rates and lower chances of survival; and

Whereas according to a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School have discovered a variant of a small segment of the human genome that accounts for the higher risk of prostate cancer in African-American men: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that prostate cancer has created a health crisis for African-American men; and

(2) urges Federal agencies to designate additional funds for—

(A) research to address and attempt to end the health crisis created by prostate cancer; and

(B) efforts relating to education, awareness, and early detection at the grassroots level to end that health crisis.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I invite my colleagues to celebrate Father's Day by cosponsoring a Senate resolution supporting men's health by recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African American men has reached epidemic proportions. The resolution also urges Federal agencies to address the health crisis by designating funds for education, awareness outreach, and research specifically focused on how prostate cancer affects African-American men.

Prostate cancer affects thousands of American men each year and is currently the second leading cause of cancer related deaths. This cancer strikes 1 in every 6 men, making it even more prevalent than breast cancer, which strikes 1 in every 7 women. Last year alone more than 186,000 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer and more than 28,000 men died from the disease.

The incidence rate of African-Americans is 60 percent higher than any other racial or ethnic group in the U.S. African-Americans are more likely to be diagnosed at an advanced stage and thus have higher mortality rates than any other group.

That is why the Resolution recognizes prostate cancer's prevalence and debilitating impact within all communities, but especially for African-Americans, and urges Federal agencies to direct funds toward efforts to address this particular population.

Sensors CARDIN, BURRIS, LANDRIEU and BOXER join me in introducing this resolution. Congress must take the lead in fighting prostate cancer. I hope all of my colleagues can support this resolution, as it calls for better education and research that will ensure the health of our Nation's fathers, brothers, and sons.

SENATE RESOLUTION 192—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MONGOLIA AND EXPANDING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MONGOLIA

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. WEBB, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 192

Whereas the United States Government established diplomatic relations with the Government of Mongolia in January 1987;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia declared an end to one-party Communist rule in 1990 and initiated democratic and free market reforms;

Whereas the United States Government has a continued commitment to ongoing economic and political reforms in Mongolia and has made sizeable contributions for that purpose since 1991;

Whereas, in 1991, the United States established Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with Mongolia and began a Peace Corps program that now boasts over 100 volunteers and over 725 volunteers since its creation, and is one of the largest per capita Peace Corps programs worldwide;

Whereas the United States extended permanent NTR status effective July 1, 1999;

Whereas the United States has strongly supported the participation of Mongolia in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, among other international organizations;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia enhanced their trade relationship through the signing of a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2004 to boost bilateral commercial ties and amicably resolve disagreements over trade;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia continues to work with the United States Government to combat global terrorism and, from April 2003 to October 2008, sent 10 consecutive deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom and 7 indirect fire technical training teams to Afghanistan;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia continues to demonstrate a growing desire to join the United States in global peacekeeping activities by providing an ongoing deployment of soldiers to protect the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as well as providing deployments in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization mission in Kosovo and United Nations missions in a number of countries in Africa;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia signed denuclearization agreements in 1991 and 1992, making Mongolia a nuclear weapons-free zone;

Whereas Mongolia was deemed eligible for Millennium Challenge Compact assistance on May 6, 2004, submitted its official proposal on October 13, 2005, received approval for its proposal from the Millennium Challenge Corporation on September 12, 2007, and signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact Agreement on October 22, 2007, during a visit to the United States by then-Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar;

Whereas President George W. Bush became the first-ever sitting United States President to travel to Mongolia on November 21, 2005;

Whereas the House Democracy Assistance Commission began a program to provide parliamentary assistance to the State Great Hural, the parliament of Mongolia, in 2007;

Whereas Senate Resolution 352, 110th Congress, agreed to October 18, 2007, expressed the sense of the Senate on "the strength and endurance" of the partnership between the United States and Mongolia during the 20th anniversary of relations between the two countries;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia signed an agreement to increase cooperation in preventing trafficking in nuclear technology on October 23, 2007;

Whereas, during the October 2007 visit by then-President Enkhbayar to Washington, DC, the United States and Mongolia agreed to a Declaration of Principles for further cooperation between both countries, including a commitment to expanded development and long-term cooperation in political, economic, trade, investment, educational, cultural, arts, scientific and technological, defense, security, humanitarian, and other areas;

Whereas the people of Mongolia completed a free, fair, and peaceful democratic election on May 24, 2009, which resulted in the election of opposition Democratic Party candidate Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced on June 9, 2009, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia, S. Batbold, that the United States is "committed to supporting the government and people of Mongolia as they seek assistance to develop, as they continue their democratization, and as they reach out to the rest of the world"; and

Whereas the United States Government and the Government of Mongolia share a common interest in promoting peaceful cooperation in Northeast Asia and Central Asia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the growing partnership between the democratic governments and peoples of the United States and Mongolia deserves acknowledgment and celebration;